THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The recommendation of the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) has not yet been received by the Government. As such, no investment is being made in equities.

(c) The Employees' Representatives are against any reduction in the existing rate of interest. The rate of interest for the year 2006-07 is, however, yet to be recommended by the Board.

Special salary to employees of EPFO

1750. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government issued orders in 2003 for special salary to Accounts related offices, but the benefits were not extended to employees of Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), though they deal with accounts;

(b) if so, the resons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase salaries of employees of EPFO, on par with these of other Accounts-related Government offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government of India issued orders dated 28.02.2003 for upgradation of pay scales of Organized Accounts Cadres. The benefit was not extended to any Accounts post not belonging to one of the Organized Accounts Cadres. Employees' Provident Fund Organization is not having any Organized Accounts Cadre post.

(c) and (d) A proposal to increase salaries of employees of EPFO on par with those of Accounts related Government offices is being examined in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Success of Indus project

1751. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the magnitude of child labour population in different States, as per the latest available data;